

Message Text

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43/14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 SAM-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 L-03 DRC-01 /073 W
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R 010305Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1978

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PERTH

UNCLAS MELBOURNE 00105

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 105 VICE 505)

FOR STATE/LABOR/COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB,AS

SUBJECT: BANK DISPUTE CONTINUES WITH RESULTANT CONFUSION

REF: MELBOURNE 0097

1. DISPUTE, ORIGINALLY INVOLVING WORKERS IN MOST NATIONAL BANKS OPERATING IN VICTORIA AND NEW SOUTH WALES, AS REPORTED REFTEL, HAS NOW SPREAD TO INCLUDE ALL STATES, EXCEPT QUEENSLAND. DISCUSSIONS THROUGH JANUARY 31 HELD SEPARATELY BY ARBITRATION COMMISSION JUDGE WITH MANAGEMENT AND LABOR, HAVE SO FAR NOT PRODUCED SOLUTION. LACK OF INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS HAS RESULTED IN SOME CONFUSION AMONGST BANK WORKERS. SOME BANK STAFF REPORTED FOR WORK AT ISOLATED BRANCHES WHICH OPENED FOR FEW HOURS. THOUSANDS OF BANK BRANCHES STILL CLOSED FEBRUARY 1.

2. BECAUSE OUT AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND TASMANIA
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NOT EFFECTED UNTIL FEBRUARY 1, SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE COMPANIES

HAVE CALLED IN CASH DEPOITS AVAILABLE IN PERTH, HOBART AND ADELAIDE. NECESSITY FOR TRANSPORTING LARGE AMOUNTS OF CASH HAS THROWN GREAT PRESSURE ON SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS. MAYNE-NICKLESS LIMITED, CHIEF PRIVATE ARMORED GUARD ORGANIZATION IN AUSTRALIA, REPORTS ITS SECURITY FORCE AND VAULT SPACE ARE BEING OVER STRAINED.

3. BOTH FORD AND GENERAL MOTORS COMPANYS REPORT PRESENT CASH POSITION WILL MAKE POSSIBLE MEETING HOURLY RATED EMPLOYEES' PAYROLLS THIS WEEK. THEIR NORMAL COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS HAVE NOT YET BEEN EFFECTED, SINCE BOTH ARE FAR BEHIND IN NEW CAR DELIVERIES, AND CARS NOW ON ORDER HAVE BEEN PAID FOR LONG AGO BY RETAIL CUSTOMERS.

4 SERVICE AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS, NOT NORMALLY IN THE CASH BUSINESS, WHICH DID NOT SECURE CASH IN TIME ON JANUARY 30 ARE HAVING TROUBLE MEETING PAYROLLS TODAY. THESE INCLUDE SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND NATIONAL ART GALLERY. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS REPORTED SMALL FIRMS ARE RAPIDLY HEADING FOR TROUBLE.

5. COMMENT: AUSTRALIA, WHICH HAS BEEN SLOWLY MOVING TOWARD PAPER CREDIT SYSTEM, WITH BANK CARDS PLANNED TO BE ISSUED IN JULY THIS YEAR, IS NOT SMOOTHLY ADJUSTING BACK TO A CASH SYSTEM. MANY PEOPLE WHO WOULD NORMALLY CARRY \$5.00 IN THEIR POCKETS ARE NOW CARRYING MUCH MORE, IF THEY WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO ARRANGE WITHDRAWALS IN TIME. TRADES HALL COUNCIL SECRETARY KEN STONE TOLD LABATT JANUARY 31, ALL UNIONS IN VICTORIA ARE SOLIDLY BEHIND BANK WORKERS AND INTENDS TO ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENT OF SUPPORT. THIS IS IMPORTANT FOR BANK WORKERS AS THEY ARE NOT AFFILIATED TO GENERAL MOVEMENT.
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